

PATENT

Application # 10/042,143

Attorney Docket # 2000-0672A (1014-200)

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the thoughtful consideration provided to this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-56 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 12, 23, 34, and 45 are in independent form.

The Restriction Requirement

In response to paragraph 2 of the Restriction Requirement, Group 1, claims 1-44 are elected. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that 35 U.S.C 121 is only applicable if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. *A prima facie* showing of both requirements, and particularly the independence requirement, has not been made. For example, a relationship has been disclosed between the subject matter of each of the presented claims.

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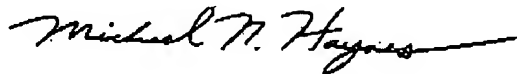
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application as amended is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Haynes PLC



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